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"ARMED NEUTRALITY" ASKED BY PRESIDENT

In Address to Congress Wilson Says He Desires Peace, But Freedom of Seas Must Be Upheld. Historic Scenes at Breaking off of Diplomatic Relations Re-Enacted.

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, D. C., Feb. 26.—At a joint session of Congress this afternoon President Wilson asked power to use the armed forces of the United States in protecting American rights on the high seas, and authority to establish a state of "armed neutrality." The President pointed that while he desired peace, there is something greater than peace—the protection of the sovereign rights of America and that the untrembling right of American ships to sail the seas unmolested by any foreign nation must be upheld. It was learned before the President appeared that he was confident Congress would immediately grant his request.

The historic scenes of a few weeks ago, when President Wilson appeared before the joint session and notified Congress of the breaking off of diplomatic relations with Germany, were re-enacted today after the President had solemnly read his address.

President Wilson learned of the sinking of the Laconia while en route to the capitol.

President Wilson, in his request to a joint session of Congress this afternoon for authority to use the armed forces of the United States to protect American rights on the high seas, declared:

"I am not now proposing or contemplating war or any steps that may lead to it. I merely request that you will accord me, by your own vote and definite bestowal, the means and authority to safeguard in practice the right of a great people who are at peace and who are desirous of exercising none but the rights of peace, to follow the pursuits of peace in quietness and good will, rights recognized time out of mind by all civilized nations of the world. War can only come to us by the willful acts and aggressions of others."

President Wilson, at the start of his address, referred to his action of February 3rd in breaking off relations with Germany. He said that since then "the practical results of Germany's submarine campaign had not been fully disclosed."

"Our own commerce is suffering in apprehension rather than in fact," he went on. He cited the sinking of the Housatonic and Lyman M. Law, declaring the case of the Lyman M. Law was practically the same as that of the sinking of the steamer Fry, for which Germany admitted its liability. This case, he said, "disclosed a ruthlessness of methods which deserves grave condemnation, but was accompanied by no circumstances which might not have been expected at any time." The situation was practically unchanged, the President said. No overt act as described in his previous address has been committed.

"But," he added, "while this is happily true, it must be admitted that there have been certain additional indications and expressions on the part of the Great press and authorities which have increased the impression

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VILLA FOLLOWERS NEARING JUAREZ

Reported at El Paso That Approach of General Villa is Awaited Before Battle.

(By Associated Press.)
El Paso, Texas, Feb. 26.—Villa troop movements continue to center around Juarez and Chihuahua City and an attack may be expected upon either town within the next week, according to government agents and Villa partisans here. Villa followers are reported 58 miles south of Juarez and southeast of Juarez, opposite Fort Hancock, Texas.

The movement against Juarez and Chihuahua City is said to be delayed pending the arrival of Francisco Villa. He was reported near San Andres, Chihuahua, Tuesday on his way north with his main command.

Salazar Friday entered Pearson, Chihuahua, and looted a number of houses and the Madera Lumber Company's store. This is the second time within two weeks Pearson has been looted. A skirmish also was reported between Pearson and Casas Grandes Friday between small detachments of de facto and Villa cavalry.

WAS KILLED WHILE AWAITING TRIAL

(By Associated Press.)
Memphis, Tenn., Feb. 26.—John Ward, awaiting trial for the alleged killing of Louis Hooker, was shot and killed by Thomas Hooker, a brother of the deceased at the entrance to the sheriff's office. Hooker surrendered.

TURKS ON TIGRIS IN FULL RETREAT

(By Associated Press.)
London, February 26.—Pursued by British cavalry, the Turks on the Tigris are in full retreat. The British have captured Katelamara.

TO DETERMINE HARRY THAWS SANITY

(By Associated Press.)
Philadelphia, Pa., Feb. 26.—Proceedings to determine Harry K. Thaw's sanity have begun.

DUTCH WILL INTERN STRANDED SUBMARINE.

London, Feb. 26.—A dispatch to Reuters Telegram Company from Flushing says the German submarine U-30, which stranded on the Dutch island of Walcheren in the North Sea last week, will be disarmed and interned at Flushing. The crew also will be interned.

RANKING OFFICER OF AMERICAN NAVY



Admiral William S. Benson, U.S.N., who has been appointed ranking officer of the United States navy and who succeeds the late Admiral Dewey as president of the general board of the navy, retaining also his duties as chief of naval operations.

MRS. BUD FISHER SEEKING A DIVORCE

Wife of Creator of "Mutt and Jeff" Wants Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars Yearly as Alimony.

(By Associated Press.)
New Brunswick, N. J., Feb. 26.—Harry C. Fisher, known as "Bud" Fisher, a cartoonist, was made defendant today in an action in the New York supreme court for absolute divorce brought by Pauline Margaret Fisher. Mrs. Fisher was formerly Miss Welch of Baltimore. The name of the co-respondent was not obtainable and upon inquiry at the office of Mrs. Fisher's counsel, A. C. Streitwolf, information was refused. Mr. Streitwolf was seen in New Brunswick today and said he would apply for \$25,000 per annum alimony for his client and \$5,000 counsel fees.

TRYING TO HOLD CHINA'S FRIENDSHIP

(By Associated Press.)
Peking, Feb. 26.—Dr. Yen Hui Ching, Chinese minister to Germany, has sent a cablegram to Dr. Wu Ting Fang, the foreign minister, saying that Germany would not modify her submarine campaign, but would respect the lives and property of Chinese and hoped China would not break off diplomatic relations.

PAVING WORK STARTED.

The big mixer of the Kaw Paving Co. was started today laying concrete on 25th street from the H. & T. C. track to Washington Avenue. The work of lowering the interurban track that crosses this street has been completed and when the paving work has been finished the car line service to Villa Maria will be resumed.

STOLEN MONEY ORDER BLANKS.

Postmaster T. A. Cloud has been notified by the federal authorities at Washington to look out for 150 money order blanks that were stolen from the postoffice at Platt, Oklahoma. Other articles stolen were a stamp that is used in making out the money orders and also 350 pennies.

DUKE DRIVES ENGINE FOR GERARD TRAIN

Former American Ambassador at Berlin Has Noble Engineer From Madrid to Corunna.

(By Associated Press.)
London, Feb. 26.—Telegraphing from Madrid Sunday, Reuter's correspondent says that James W. Gerard, former American ambassador to Germany, Mrs. Gerard and the members of the embassy staff left the Spanish capital at 4 o'clock in the afternoon on a special train for Corunna, where the party will embark for the United States.

The duke of Zaragoza drove the engine, having volunteered for the task. Mr. Gerard, learning of this, asked for an introduction to the duke, with whom he chatted before boarding the train.

EDWIN GOULD, JR. VICTIM OF ACCIDENT

Attempted to Club Coon With a Gun and the Weapon Was Discharged With Fatal Results.

(By Associated Press.)
Brunswick, Ga., Feb. 26.—Edwin Gould, Jr., was instantly killed while hunting coons with a companion on Latham's hummock, near Jekyll Island, early Sunday.

Reports from Jekyll Island Sunday night said that young Gould was shot while attempting to club a coon with the old style hammer shotgun which he used in preference to the new hammerless gun.

The discharge of shot entered his groin when the hammer, it is believed, caught on a part of his clothing. Death was instantaneous.

The body was brought to Brunswick Sunday and placed aboard a special car, which was attached to a train leaving at 2:35 in the afternoon for New York.

Edwin Gould, his father, who was at St. Augustine, hurried to Savannah, where he met the train bearing his son's body and proceeded with it to New York. Mr. Gould was 23 years of age.

LINER LACONIA VICTIM OF GERMAN TORPEDO

London Says Vessel Was Sunk Without Warning. Seven Americans Were Among the One Hundred Passengers—Twenty Native Born Americans Listed Among the Crew.

FOOD SHORTAGE IN OUR GREAT CITIES

Thousands of People Are Actually Suffering for the Want of Immediate Necessities.

The riots and disturbances that have recently occurred in some of our larger cities may well cause us to wonder what would happen should this nation be called upon to face a real emergency.

Despite the fact that we have been called upon to meet no extraordinary situation, or make unusual sacrifices, we find that thousands upon thousands of people are not only embarrassed, but actually suffering for lack of immediate necessities.

If the slight abnormality in our economic life caused by the increased trade with Europe can produce such conditions, what would real war result in. If we should be called upon to meet difficulties and overcome obstacles like those which Germany is now confronting, where would we land.

It must be apparent to the veriest novice that our agricultural resources are so poorly developed and our transportation facilities so hopelessly inadequate, as to be capable of supplying the more densely populated centers only under the most favorable circumstances.

The moment there is the slightest tax upon the former, or the slightest interruption of the latter we find our large cities not only inconvenienced, but distressed.

The Chronicle has asserted many times that the American people have paid far too much attention to town building and nowhere nearly enough to agricultural development.

Our cities have not only been permitted, but encouraged to grow out of all proportion to our rural sections, and the result is that we are pursuing a hand to mouth existence which would seriously interfere with our best efforts should we be called upon to meet a crucial test.

We call ourselves a great farming nation, yet there is no other civilized country that has done so little, in proportion to what it might, to build up its agricultural power and perfect its marketing facilities.

Lack of system and co-ordination is, perhaps, our chief deficiency, though before very much can be accomplished we must have more men using the hoe.—Houston Chronicle.

GERMANY ANSWERS BRAZIL'S NOTE

Will Not Abandon Submarine Campaign, But Suggests Negotiations.

Rio de Janeiro, Feb. 26.—Brazil's declaration to Germany that she does not recognize the submarine blockade and leaves with Germany the responsibility for all acts from which Brazilian merchantmen may suffer in violation of international law has elicited from Germany a statement that the blockade will not be abandoned.

In case of the loss of Brazilian ships the German government, the foreign office says, will suggest diplomatic negotiations.

Queenstown, Feb. 26.—The Cunard liner Laconia, which sailed from New York Sunday February 18th, with one hundred passengers, seven of whom were Americans, has been sunk.

The survivors will be landed tonight and are said to number 270.

No Warning Was Given.
London, Feb. 26.—It is authoritatively stated that the Laconia was torpedoed without warning.

Only One Casualty.
New York, Feb. 26.—Cunard line officials announced that they have been advised that there was only one casualty among the seven Americans on board. There were twenty native born Americans among the crew. Five thousand sacks of United States mail were carried by the Laconia.

TO HEAR OPINIONS OF THE PUBLISHERS

Federal Trade Commission Asks Men Who Use Print Paper to Come to Washington.

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Feb. 26.—Newspaper publishers invited here from throughout the United States will give the Federal Trade Commission their views today on a proposal by print paper manufacturers that the commission fix prices for their product.

Consent of the publishers generally is awaited before the commission will agree to arbitrate differences between paper makers and the publishers. Officers of the American Newspaper Publishers' Association, who have been here for several days, have indicated they will approve the proposal if it promises, in addition to lower prices, a restoration of free competition in news print manufacture.

Before indorsing it, however, they want the proposal signed by manufacturers representing at least 50 per cent of the news print tonnage, and also want the signatures of all members of the executive committee of the News Print Manufacturers' Association.

Publishers arriving Sunday night and early today comprise largely those who have purchased their paper from manufacturers who joined in the price fixing suggestion.

It is generally believed the publishers will approve the plan and that the trade commission within a few days will announce acceptance of the manufacturers' suggestion.

GERMAN SUBMARINE DISARMED, INTERNED

German Submersible U-30 Stranded on Dutch Island in North Sea.

London, Feb. 26.—A dispatch to Reuters Telegram Company from Flushing says the German submarine U-30, which stranded on the Dutch island of Walcheren in the North Sea last week, will be disarmed and interned at Flushing. The crew also will be interned.